

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY INR/RES:JDISCIULLO  
APPROVED BY INR/OD: WGHYLAND  
S/S:DMILLER  
INR:MPACKMAN

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O 102222Z JUN 74 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO WHITE HOUSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122345

TOSEC 25

E.O.11651

TAGS: IT, PINT

SUBJECT: RESIGNATION OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

WHITE HOUSE PASS SALZBURG

1. FOLLOWING IS PRELIMINARY INR ESTIMATE OF PROSPECTS FOR  
SUCCESSION TO PREMIER RUMOR'S 12-WEEK OLD CENTER-LEFT  
COALITION WHICH RESIGNED TONIGHT.

2. RUMOR GOVERNMENT WILL STAY ON IN CARETAKER CAPACITY  
UNTIL SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT IS FORMED (ITALIAN GOVERNMENT  
CRISES GENERALLY LAST FROM 4 TO 7 WEEKS).

3. THE CRISIS WAS MADE INEVITABLE WHEN THE COALITION  
PARTIES, AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND SOCIALISTS IN  
PARTICULAR, FAILED TO RECONCILE THEIR DIFFERENCES OVER THE  
TYPE AND EXTENT OF THE AUSTERITY MEASURES NECESSARY TO MEET  
ITALY'S WORST POSTWAR FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS. THE  
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS INSISTED ON THE NEED TO CONTAIN  
INTERNAL DEMAND AND REDUCE INFLATION. THE SOCIALISTS  
OPPOSED DEFLATIONARY MEASURES WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN  
INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT.

4. THE PARLIAMENTARY ARITHMETIC IS SUCH THAT, IF THE  
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SOCIALISTS REFUSE EITHER TO ENTER OR SUPPORT A SUCCESSOR

GOVERNMENT, THE DOMINANT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WILL HAVE  
THREE CHOICES AHEAD OF THEM:

--FORM AN ALL-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MINORITY CABINET WHICH  
CAN GET THE SUPPORT OF THE SMALLER CENTER DEMOCRATIC  
PARTIES (SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS, AND LIBERALS);

--ATTEMPT TO PUT TOGETHER A COALITION CABINET WITH THOSE  
SAME CENTER PARTIES; OR

--DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT AND CALL FOR EARLY GENERAL ELECTIONS.

5. OF THE THREE OPTIONS, THE LAST IS THE LEAST LIKELY.  
EITHER OF THE OTHER TWO WOULD PROBABLY BE OF SHORT AND  
DIFFICULT DURATION, GIVEN BOTH THE NARROW MARGIN THAT SUCH  
GOVERNMENTS WOULD COMMAND IN PARLIAMENT (A 17-VOTE MAJORITY  
IN THE CHAMBER AND A 5-VOTE MAJORITY IN THE SENATE) AND THE  
INTRACTABILITY OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS THAT  
TRIGGERED THE CURRENT CRISIS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

6. THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT WITH COMMUNIST  
PARTICIPATION, AS HAS BEEN RUMORED IN VARIOUS QUARTERS  
RECENTLY, IS COMPLETELY OUT OF THE QUESTION UNDER PRESENT  
CIRCUMSTANCES. SISCO

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